

Camden County Board of Commissioners**Regular Meeting****May 5, 2008****8:00 A.M.****Historic Courtroom, Courthouse Complex
Camden, North Carolina****MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in the Historic Courtroom, Camden, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Chairman Jeffrey B. Jennings

Vice Chairman Philip Faison

Commissioners Melvin J. Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall and Mike Andrews

Also attending was County Manager Randell Woodruff, Clerk to the Board Ava Gurganus and County Attorney John S. Morrison.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings called the meeting to order and asked Commissioner Mike Andrews to give the invocation and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Agenda

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings amended the agenda as follows: *Presentations, 2. Gil Himebaugh – Pasquotank SPCA; Item 3. Consent Agenda, G. Ordinance No. 2008-05-02 – An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting A Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for Camden County and Declaring an Emergency; Item 3. Consent Agenda, H. Set Public Hearing for 2008 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Program; Item 6. New Business, I. FY2008-2009 Budget Message; and Item 6. New Business, J. School Camera System.*

County Manager Randell Woodruff asked that *Property Acquisition* be added to Closed Session.

Commissioner Sandy Duckwall made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioners absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

PRESENTATIONS:**Amy Durden & Amber Reed – Drainage & Floodwater Management Plan**

Amber Reed presented a power point presentation of drainage areas and explained the map and names of the major drainage areas in the county and further explained the areas that had been cleared. Mrs. Reed stated that although nothing could be done regarding the topography but debris issues can be taken care of by removing the growth, removing the downed trees, and removing the wildlife. Clearing and snagging is removal of the wooded debris along the streams and creeks and the purpose is to help drainage flow easier off the yards, fields and roads. From fall 2004 to March, 2008 \$131,000.00 has been received to clear and over 20 miles of ditches has been cleared. Mrs. Reed explained the drainage districts.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings asked if each drainage district will have its own advisory board or would one advisory board cover all the districts.

Mrs. Reed replied that each district would have its own advisory board.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings stated that the Commissioners need to designate other drainage areas such as Joyce Creek.

Mrs. Reed replied that would be the way the major drainage problems in the county could be addressed early and advised between three (3) and five (5) members on an advisory board.

Commissioner Melvin Jeralds asked, by the way the map was drawn, if Joyce Creek was included in the South Mills area and if a tax was implemented in South Mills, would it cover Joyce Creek with an additional tax for the tributaries.

Ray Albertson, Joyce Creek Drainage District member, stated that the money that is spent for Joyce Creek is just for the main volume of water that goes through the main channel. It is not for and does not cover any of the tributaries that feed water into Joyce Creek.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings stated that the Joyce Creek Drainage District covers South Mills and an additional tax would go toward the tributaries. Joyce Creek would still be separate because it is controlled by the Corp of Engineers, but the Joyce Creek Drainage District Advisory Board would oversee everything.

Planning Director Dan Porter stated since the Joyce Creek District exists and it covers the main channels and not the tributaries, a different formula would be established for those outside of the district.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings directed Planning Director Dan Porter to work with Amber Reed and Amy Durden to present districts and recommend Advisory Boards to the Commissioners for approval.

Gil Himebaugh – SPCA

Mr. Himebaugh requested the Commissioners amend the existing Animal Control Ordinance so that feral cats can be euthanized in three (3) days instead of five (5) due to the personal safety of shelter workers.

Public Comments

William Basnight, 189 Lilly Road, stated he is building a home on Lilly Road. In 2006 he purchased a single wide mobile home for temporary housing during the construction, which should be completed by the end of the present month. Mr. Basnight stated that he had a buyer for the mobile home but the buyer backed out when he was told he had to pay an impact fee to move the trailer down the road a few miles, and felt since this was an ongoing case, that the mobile home should be grandfathered in and exempt from impact fee, or he would have left the mobile home at the original site.

John Zelsnack, 201 Run Swamp Road, stated he is located on the east side of Highway 34 and there is a fire hydrant at the intersection of Highway 34 and one at the far end of Whitehurst Lane and asked about the feasibility of installing another fire hydrant mid-way.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings instructed the County Manager to have Public Works Manager David Credle to look into the matter.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Sandy Duckwall made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

• Consent Agenda

April 7, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes - subject to correction of typographical and technical errors.

Authorization to Collect – December 2007 and January 2008 Renewals

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CAMDEN

TO: The Tax Administrator of Camden County (Dec.Ren.) Due 4/1/08

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the Tax Administrator and in the tax receipts herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon personal property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Camden, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to levy on and sell personal property of such taxpayers for and on account thereof, in accordance with the law.

SOUTH MILLS	COURTHOUSE	SHILOH	TOTAL
10,704.51	20,445.86	8,539.87	39,690.24

Witness my hand and official seal this 5th day of May 2008.

Chairman, Camden County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Camden County

This is to certify that I have received the tax receipts and duplicates for collection in the amounts as listed herein.

Tax Administrator of Camden County

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF CAMDEN

TO: The Tax Administrator of Camden County (Jan. Ren.) Due 5/1/08

You are hereby authorized, empowered, and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the tax records filed in the office of the Tax Administrator and in the tax receipts herewith delivered to you, in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien upon personal property of the respective taxpayers in the County of Camden, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to levy on and sell personal property of such taxpayers for and on account thereof, in accordance with the law.

SOUTH MILLS	COURTHOUSE	SHILOH	TOTAL
16,536.07	20,844.62	9,219.50	46,600.19

Witness my hand and official seal this 5th day of May, 2008.

Chairman, Camden County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Camden County

This is to certify that I have received the tax receipts and duplicates for collection in the amounts as listed herein.

Tax Administrator of Camden County

Volunteer Form – Cindy Soldal

Set Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 2008-04-01 – Rezoning Application Camden Plantation Properties, Inc. – UDO 2007-10-06 for May 19, 2008

Introduce & Set Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 2008-05-01 – Rezoning Application – UDO 2008-03-57 – Brian & Anna Smith for May 19, 2008

Set Public Hearing for FY2008-2009 Budget for May 19, 2008

Ordinance No. 2008-05-02 – An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting A Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for Camden County and Declaring an Emergency

Ordinance No. 2008-05-02

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, CAMDEN, NORTH CAROLINA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, American Legal Publishing Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio, has completed the 2008 S-7 Supplement of the Camden County Code of Ordinances, which supplement contains all ordinances of a general and permanent nature enacted since the prior supplement to the Code of Ordinances of this Political Subdivision; and

WHEREAS, American Legal Publishing Corporation has recommended the revision or addition of certain sections of the Code of Ordinances which are based on or make reference to sections of the North Carolina code; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Camden County Board of Commissioners to accept these updated sections in accordance with the changes of the law of the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the usual daily operation of Camden County and for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare of Camden County that this ordinance take effect at an early date;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Section 1. That the 2008 S-7 Supplement to the Code of Ordinances of the County of Camden as submitted by American Legal Publishing Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio, and as attached hereto, be and the same is hereby adopted by reference as if setout in its entirety.

Section 2. Such supplement shall be deemed published as of the day of its adoption and approval by the Camden County Board of Commissioners and the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized and ordered to insert such supplement into the copy of the Code of Ordinances kept on file in the Office of the Clerk.

Section 3. This ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the peace, health, safety and general welfare of the people of Camden County, and shall take effect at the earliest date provided by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Camden County Board of Commissioners on this 5th day of May, 2008.

(SEAL)

Jeffrey B. Jennings, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ava Gurganus
Clerk to the Board

Set Public Hearing for 2008 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Program for May 19, 2008

• **End of Consent Agenda**

Old Business - Upset Bid Process for Sale of Cuthrell House Property

Attorney John Morrison stated an offer in writing for the Cuthrell House Property was received from Camden Realty Group LLC for \$450,000.00 with \$1,000.00 earnest money deposit. Mr. Morrison stated this offer has contingencies and recommended that the Commissioners did not accept a bid with contingencies. Mr. Morrison requested permission from the Commissioners to talk with the bidder's attorney and if the offer is in fact \$450,000.00 with no contingencies then the Commissioners may go forward.

The Commissioners has an offer from Camden Realty Group LLC and the County Attorney is advising not to accept the bid. The Commissioners are not accepting that offer because it has contingencies and the offer is being put back on the May 19, 2008 Commissioners agenda in order for the County Attorney to consult with the bidder's counsel so that the offer can be revised.

Hearing no objections, Chairman Jeffrey Jennings so ordered Attorney John Morrison to review the bid offer from Camden Realty Group LLC, consult with the bidder's attorney and placed this matter on the May 19, 2008.

New Business - Estimated Property Tax Values

Commissioner Mike Andrews made a motion to accept the estimated property tax values as submitted by Tax Administrator Mary Rhodes. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

New Business - Mutual Aid Agreement – Currituck County - OLF

Commissioner Melvin Jeralds made a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and necessary staff to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement with Currituck County regarding the Navy Off-site Landing Field (OLF). The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

New Business - Award of Contract to Audit for FY2007-2008

County Manager Randell Woodruff stated that a request for bids were sent out to eight (8) audit firms who do governmental audits and two (2) bids were received. The lowest bid was received from Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Co., PA from Wilmington, NC.

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings asked to be recused from voting due to a relative's employment with the lowest bidder.

Commissioner Philip Faison made a motion to recuse Chairman Jeffrey Jennings from voting. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Vice Chairman Philip Faison called for a motion.

Commissioner Mike Andrews made a motion to award the contract to audit accounts to Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Co., PA and authorize the Chairman and necessary staff to execute the contract. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, and Philip Faison; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings recused from voting.

New Business - Albemarle Commission – FY 07-08 Home & Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)

Staff received a letter from Susan Scurria, Area Agency on Aging Director at the Albemarle Commission, regarding an additional allocation in the HCCBG of \$978.00, approved by the State Legislature, which requires a local match of \$109.00. The additional monies will be added to the current Healthcare Options contract to enable sixty five (65) hours of in-home assistance to senior citizens.

Commissioner Mike Andrews made a motion to accept the additional allocation to the HCCBG and approve the \$109.00 local match. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

New Business - Coastal Resources Commission Board Recommendations

Staff received the attached letter from Governor Easley soliciting nominations for upcoming vacancies on the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC).

Detailed qualifications for nominees and detailed procedures/guidelines in making the appointments must be reviewed carefully. Each county is allowed to specify four (4) nominations from the categories (no more than two (2) members may reside in the same county and no more than two (2) can reside outside the county) by May 31, 2008.

Hearing no objections, Chairman Jeffrey Jennings asked for everyone to bring back names at the May 19, 2008 Commissioners meeting.

New Business - Waste Industries Contract

Following discussion, Chairman Jeffrey Jennings directed the County Attorney look at Waste Industries Contract and bring back a recommendation at the May 19, 2008 Commissioners meeting.

New Business - Resolution No. 2008-05-01 – For the Exchange of Property and Easement – Harrell Property

In order to dispose of property that was exchanged where the old county sewer system was located, and in order to dispose and finalize this matter according to General Statutes, a Resolution needs to be approved.

Commissioner Jeralds made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2008-05-01. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Approved Resolution No. 2008-05-01 reads as follows:

Resolution No. 2008-05-01

**A Resolution of the Camden County Board of Commissioners
for the Exchange of Property and Easement**

WHEREAS, Camden County (the “County”) desires to exchange an easement and property for a sewer easement on Highway 343 in Camden, North Carolina, owned by Mildred C. Harrell pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes § 160A-271; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990’s, the County received a grant from the State of North Carolina for a septic system and the County needed property for purposes of a drain field for the septic system; and

WHEREAS, the County approached Mildred C. Harrell about purchasing from her one acre of land in Camden County for \$10,000 to include an easement to the property for purposes of accessing the field and that property and easement are described as follows: *Property Description*: “Beginning at a point located South 73° 00’ West 462.34 feet to a concrete monument, North 8° 22’ 30” West 49.84 feet to a point; South 56° 00’ 20” West 206.39 feet distant from an iron pipe located on the West right of way line of N.C. Highway #343, and said iron pipe being located on the Northeast corner of the Cuthrell property; thence from said point of beginning South 77° 26’ 10” East 29.34 feet; thence South 12° ‘ 50” West 200.00 feet; thence North 77° 26’ 10” West 200.00 feet; thence North 12° 33’ 50” East 200.00 feet; thence South 77° 26’ 10” East 170.66 feet to a point, being the point and place of beginning.” *Easement Description*: “Beginning at a point located North 8° 22’ 30” West 49.84 feet distant from a concrete monument, the Southwest corner of the Camden County property; thence South 56° 00’ 20” West 206.39 feet; thence North 77° 26; 10” West 41.32 feet; thence North 56° 00’ 20” East 249.17 feet to a point in the Camden County property line; thence along the Camden County property line South 8° 22’ 30” East 32.27 feet to a point, being the point and place of beginning.” This property as described above was acquired by Grantor by Instrument recorded in Book 86 Page 840 Camden County Registry; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Harrell did convey this property to the County and in addition, indicated, in the event this property would no longer be needed for purposes of a drain field, she would like to purchase this property back from the County; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2006, the County decided to put in a sewer system which required easements across Camden County residents’ property; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2006, the County offered to pay to Mildred Harrell one dollar per foot for a 3,686 foot sewer easement across her property on Highway 343 North in addition to one free hookup to the sewer system in exchange for a sewer easement across her property; and

WHEREAS, in response to the County’s offer, Mildred Harrell verbally indicated she would rather have her land back which she sold to the County in the 1990’s for purposes of the drain field rather than the County’s offer of a free hookup and the one dollar per foot for the sewer easement; and

WHEREAS, due to the sewer construction, the system is now online, and thus, the County no longer needs the drain field; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2006, the County agreed to exchange the property used for a drain field with Mildred Harrell for the 3,686 foot sewer easement; and

WHEREAS, at some point between May of 2006 and the present, Mildred Harrell sold all of the property in question to Camden Realty Group, LLC, and thus, she has requested the County deed the drain field property directly to Camden Realty; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 160A-271, “Property shall be exchanged only pursuant to a resolution authorizing the exchange adopted at a regular meeting of the council upon 10 days’ public notice. Notice shall be given by publication describing the properties to be exchanged, stating the value of the properties and other consideration changing hands, and announcing the council’s intent to authorize the exchange at its next regular meeting;” and

WHEREAS, the County has followed the guidelines in N.C.G.S. § 160A-271.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Camden County Board of Commissioners will exchange the drain field property for the sewer easement with Mildred Harrell pursuant to N.C.S.T. § 160A-271.

Adopted this the 5th day of May, 2008.

ATTEST:

Jeffrey B. Jennings, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

Ava Gurganus
Clerk to the Board

(SEAL)

New Business - Renovation of Classrooms – Grandy Primary School

The back wing existing 4th and 5th Grandy Primary School hallway rooms are the last classrooms that have not been renovated in Grandy Primary and need to be renovated to be consistent with the other classrooms.

Commissioner Mike Andrews made a motion to approve the capital expenditure for the renovation of the 4th and 5th Grandly Primary hallway rooms in the amount of \$65,208.00. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

New Business - FY2008-2009 Budget Message

County Manager Randell Woodruff presented and read the FY2008-2009 Budget Message.

FY 2008-2009 Budget Message

May 5, 2008

***The Camden County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Jeffrey B. Jennings, Chairman
Mr. Philip Faison, Vice Chairman
Mr. Melvin J. Jeralds
Mr. Mike Andrews
Mrs. Sandy Duckwall***

Members of the Board,

In accordance with General Statute 159-11, I hereby submit to you for your consideration the proposed FY 2008-09 budget for Camden County. A copy of the recommended budget has been filed with the Clerk to the Board and is available for public inspection.

Fiscal Year 2008-09 will certainly be a unique year for Camden County due to the current economic slowdown. Fortunately, due to the wise financial management adhered to by the Board of Commissioners over the past five years the County is poised to weather these difficult times without adversely impacting any of the services provided to the citizens or endangering the healthy financial condition and future of the County. During the months leading up to this year's budget process it has been apparent for the first time in recent years the county would be subjected to substantially increased operational costs while at the same time impacted by reduced revenues.

The proposed budget reflects the continued fiscally conservative process of cautiously projecting future revenues and maintaining expenditures at an extremely prudent level. This method of financial management has strengthened the County and led to the creation of a healthy fund balance to safeguard the operational responsibilities in the event of an economic downturn, natural disaster or other emergency situations. Indeed Camden County has encountered both an economic downturn and an emergency situation, i.e., the OLF simultaneously. Earlier this year the Board of Commissioners officially went on record in opposing the location of the OLF in the County and committed to resist it using a portion of the reserves for legal and other related costs. These are the times when local government entities must use their financial reserves to make it through a challenging period. This is exactly the purpose of building and maintaining these funds.

At this point it is still impossible to provide all of the necessary exact cost figures for the upcoming fiscal year. Therefore, with the uncertainty about the economy the proposed budget still contains a number of estimates or projections that will be replaced as soon as the current information becomes available during the next few days.

Below is a list of the few new general fund expenditures along with the numerous operating cost increases for the upcoming fiscal year which are for the most part mandated or not subject to the control of the County.

OLF Project Costs	\$300,000
(will include legal, public relations, engineering & other directly related costs)	
Worker's Compensation	\$185,223 (from \$81,515)
Health Insurance	\$380,164 (from \$339,432)
(the above costs are spread across all the county departments)	
Communications Software	\$75,000
Health Department	\$10,000
Property Insurance	\$25,957
Community Park Contribution	\$50,000
School Current Expense	\$175,000
Wastewater System subsidy from General Fund	\$70,000
Fuel Costs	\$10,000
Economic Development Incentive Fund	\$25,000
Employee Pay & Classification Study	\$11,700
Funds to Implement Pay Study	\$50,000
New Positions (1/2 yr)Register of Deeds Office	\$25,103
Parks & Recreation	\$31,383
Planning Dept. Plotter	\$18,000
New Vehicles (4)	\$95,000
Total	\$1,122,583

Compared to the budget adopted last year the proposed budget contains a 13.6% increase. Of this increase, 7.5% is not subject to the county's discretion.

Major Factors of Concern

Major factors that must be kept in the forefront of the County's financial thinking during the next two years are the following:

The County must stay actively involved and keep abreast of developments related to the new Albemarle Regional Jail. Currently the project is in a state of delay and the potential for major cost overruns is a serious concern.

Now that the wastewater system is operational, efforts must be focused on attracting new commercial growth in the service area to grow the customer base. This will increase revenues and reducing the need for subsidy from the general fund during the next three years until the system operates in the black.

The County needs to continue to reasonably support the school system current expense funding requests to prevent any losses of the low-wealth school funding. Currently the system receives approximately \$675,000 of these funds annually. If this revenue was not received the county would have to make it up from another source. In the coming days meetings will be held with local & state school officials to ensure the county will continue receiving this funding.

General Fund

The FY 2008-09 Budget is presented for your consideration with a recommended Ad Valorem tax rate of \$0.59. Even while the County is in the midst of a financially challenging time, there is a recommendation to maintain the current tax rate. With the \$0.59 per \$100 valuation and 97.3% collection rate on the real and personal property and 83.4% collection rate on vehicles, one cent of tax equals \$102,980.

Included in the \$0.59 tax rate is the "School Six Cents" which is used to fund school debt service, and the "School Seven Cents" which is used to fund the debt service payment on the new Camden Intermediate School.

This year's General Fund Budget is \$1,475,290 or 13.6% more than last year's budget.

South Camden Water & Sewer District

The Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant has been operating since October 2002 and has been very successful. Currently the system has 1966 active water accounts adding several each month. The Camden Village Core Sewer Project is now substantially complete and been operational since January of this year. This project cost is \$8,857,039 with the county's cost of \$1,293,027. This system provides wastewater service for all of the county schools, the Courthouse Complex and a corridor along US158 & NC343 in the central portion of the county.

Courthouse/Shiloh Fire Commission

The fire tax is recommended to remain at a contribution equal to \$0.05 per \$100 valuation this year. This amount includes a \$0.01 fire tax plus additional funding equivalent to \$0.04.

South Mills Fire Commission

The fire tax is recommended to remain at a contribution equal to \$.05 per \$100 valuation this year. This amount includes a \$0.01 fire tax plus additional funding equivalent to \$0.04. The Commission is continuing the process of strengthening its financial management as well as planning for the future financing of a new fire station.

Department of Social Services

Due to increased caseloads a new Child Protective Services Social Worker is included in the budget. Although there is a new Social Worker position in the DSS Budget there is no additional cost to the County due to increased state reimbursement. The County contribution for DSS will actually be \$114,000 less than the current fiscal year.

Joy's Creek Drainage District

A \$0.02 per \$100 valuation tax rate for the district is again proposed for this year. Expenses include ditch maintenance and some reserve for natural disaster/storm cleanup.

Community Park Trust Fund

The Senior Trail Trust Fund, Dismal Swamp Trail Trust Fund, and Shiloh Landing Trust Fund have been combined with the Community Park Fund at the suggestion of the Auditor and the Board of Commissioners Budget Committee.

Revaluation Reserve Fund

The county contribution is increased to \$125,000 from \$100,000 this year to be on schedule for the next revaluation cycle in four to six years. Currently there is legislation in the North Carolina General Assembly that would require counties to conduct a revaluation every four years.

County Capital Reserve Fund

The funding for this fund comes from the \$0.01 Land Transfer Tax which is levied on land sales. The revenues are estimated at \$400,000 this year. The major expense will be the debt service on the DSS Building and the new Albemarle Regional Jail (our portion is 13%). The Register of Deeds addition is budgeted at \$600,000. Additionally this fund will be used for the proposed CIP projects.

School Capital Reserve Fund

A percentage of the Local Option Sales tax and "School Six Cents" funds will be used for debt service on the QZAB I, QZAB II and the \$1,000,000 Loan as well as the School Capital Outlay expense of \$215,000. The debt service on the new Camden Intermediate School is \$686,400 and will be funded with the "School Seven Cents."

The recommended FY2008-2009 budget will meet the county's needs in a responsible manner while navigating the current economic downturn. It is to be clearly understood that this is a natural economic cyclical event and that it is expected the economy will rebound within the next two years. This budget allows the county to move forward with the funding of department priorities, capital needs, dealing with the threat of an OLF, and provides essential healthcare/benefits for the county's dedicated professional staff. As the Board of Commissioners has discussed several times over the past couple of years, the county is in a transition period that requires forward thinking and planning for the future needs of the county and its citizens. Therefore, it is recommended the Board of Commissioners take sufficient time to thoroughly review the Financial Policy Resolutions enacted last budget season as set out in the Capital Improvement Program. As this year's budget process develops, I feel confident we will work together to fashion a budget focused on serving the citizens while at the same time adhering to wise financial management.

I thank all the department heads for their cooperation in helping to complete this budget process and applaud their hard work to make Camden County an entity providing quality services in a professional environment. Special thanks go to the Finance Office staff for their assistance. As you move forward with your review of the proposed budget feel free to call, email or come by the office to discuss items or issues you have questions or concerns about.

Respectfully submitted,
Randell K. Woodruff
Budget Officer/County Manager

Commissioner Sandy Duckwall made a motion to accept the FY2008-2009 Budget Message as presented by the County Manager. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

New Business - School Camera System

Commissioner Mike Andrews made a motion to approve the camera systems for the outside and inside of the Camden Intermediate School and to take the money out of the project fund account in the amount of \$15,470.00. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

Commissioner's Report

Chairman Jeffrey Jennings reported that the jail project is moving forward slowly.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Randell Woodruff reported on the following:

- Regional NCDOT meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, May 5, 2008 in the Camden Historic Courtroom
- The Board authorized supporting the effort among the northeastern counties to work against the proposed stormwater rules by DENR and state officials. There will be a big push at General Assembly in Raleigh on May 13, 2008
- Planning Director Dan Porter received the Edwin M. Gill Award for his participation during the Municipal and County Administration Course at UNC, Chapel Hill
- A scoping meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2008 at the High School, 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. regarding OLF
- May 21st joint public meeting with Currituck County Board of Commissioners at 7:00 p.m. and closed session at 5:30 p.m. at the High School
- Budget work sessions scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Closed Session

Commissioner Sandy Duckwall made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) for the purpose of consultation with Attorney and pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) for the purpose of discussing property acquisition. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

The Commissioners entered closed session at 9:16 a.m.

Commissioner Sandy Duckwall made a motion to come out of closed session and back into regular session. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

The Commissioners re-entered regular session at 9:47 a.m.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sandy Duckwall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Commissioners Melvin Jeralds, Sandy Duckwall, Philip Faison, Mike Andrews and Chairman Jeffrey Jennings voting aye; no Commissioner voting no; no Commissioner absent; and no Commissioner not voting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Jeffrey B. Jennings, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ava J. Gurganus
Clerk to the Board